(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) As per information available, various mineral based industries are set up in the Kutch district of Gujarat. Status of some mineral-based industries set up in Kutch district of Gujarat is given below:—

(i) Based on bauxite deposits of Kutch, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) has set up a bauxite calcination plant of 50,000 TPD capacity at Gadhsisa (Mandri Taluq). GMDC has also decided to set up an alumina plant of 2 million tpa capacity in Kutch district.

(ii) Based on the Lignite deposits around Lakhpat, GEB has set up two 70 MW thermal power unit. A third unit is likely to be added shortly.GMDC has also plans to set up a 250 MW thermal power station based on the lignite deposits of this area.

(iii) Based on the Limeston deposits of Lakhpat and Abdasa taluq, Sangi Industries Ltd., is setting up a cement plant with a capacity of 2.6 million tpa.

(iv) . a number of Bentonite pulversing units are in operation at Gandhidam, Bhuj and Mandvi.

Setting up of Mining Industries in small scale sector in Tripura

1598. SHRI ANANTHRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to setting up of mining industries in small scale sector especially in the rural and backward area in the country, particularly in Tripura State;

(b) whether Government propose to set up mining industries in small scale sector in Tripura State with Central assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the necessary measures taken by Government to provide financial assistance or Government's protection to the small scale mining industry sector in that State?'

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delegating Powers to States for Renewal of Mining Lease

1599. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a high level Committee to look into matters where more powers could be delegated to the States;

(b) if so, its terms and references and by when the Committee is expected to submit its report; and

(c) by when the Government's proposals are likely to be brought into force?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Govenrment have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines), with Secretaries of Mines & Geology of different State Governments, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as Members. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them

compatible with the policy changes, and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting licences/Mining Leases. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease and measures to prevent illegal mining. The Committee is expected to submit its report as early as possible.

Lignite Deposits in Gujarat

1600. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India, (GSI) have located huge deposits of lignite in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) other activities under operation of GSI for mineral exploration in Gujarat at present with details thereof; and

(d) whether GSI propose to step up its operations in Gujarat in 1997-98, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of estimated reserves of lignite established by GSI in Gujarat are as Under:—

District	Area	Reserves (in million tonnes)
Kutch	Mudia	6,6
	Pranpur	9,7
	Fuiaradam	1.1
Bharuch	Rajpardivastan	40

(c) The other activities on mineral investigations under operation in Gujarat at present (during Field Season 1996-97) include:

i) Synthesis of geological, structural and remote sensing data of Champaner Fold belt in parts of Eastern Gujarat for prognosis of basemetal prospecting.

ii) Geochemical prospecting for basemetal and associated mineralisation in parts of Banaskantha district.

iii) Specialised thematic survey of Aravalli Super group to locate Phosphorite occurrences, if any, in the Delomitic limestone and Cherty quartzite Important mineral resources established in the State of Gujarat are as follows (as on 1.4.90)

Bauxite	107.74 million	
China Clay	25.70	(as on 1.4.93)
Copper Ore	S.124	
Dolomite	681.63	
Gypsum	9.958	
Lead-Zine	7.876	(as on 1.4.93)
Limestone	8554.66	
Manganese	1.427	"
Quartz & Silica sand	35.471	"

(d) The investigation for lignite will continue under promotional drilling programme during Field Season 1996-97. A new programme by way of reconnoitory survey and scout drilling in the area from North of Rajpardi to Dakor in Bharuch-Vadodara-Khera Districts has been initiated during Field Season 1996-97 and the programme will continue in 1997-98. The work programme pertaining to Field Season 1997-98 for mineral investigation has not been formulated.

नई इस्पात परियोजनाओं में राज्य सरकार की भागीदारी

1601. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी0 सोलकीं :** क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार नई इस्पात परियोजनाओं में राज्य सरकारों की भागीदारी पर विचार कर रही हैं;

(ख) क्या ऐसी कोई योजना बनायी गयी हैं,

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में राज्य सरकारों से सुझाव आमंत्रित किए हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है।